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SEP 30 2003

PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

September --, 2003

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The concise explanations of relevance for the non-English documents are provided in the Description of the Related Art section of the specification.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. Application:

| <u>INVENTOR(S)</u> | <u>APPLICATION NO.</u> | <u>FILING DATE</u> |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Kenji Niibori, et al. | 10/627,716 | July 28, 2003 |

A copy of the above-identified application is enclosed.

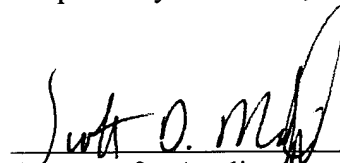
For the Examiner's information, U.S. Patent No. 5,859,497 corresponds to Japanese Document No. 9-179508.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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SDM/vmm
DC_MAIN 145546 v 1

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Submitted to the PTO: September 30, 2003

ATTY DOCKET NO.

03560.003335

APPLICATION NO.

10/622,432

APPLICANTS

KENJI NIIBORI, ET AL.

FILING DATE

July 21, 2003

GROUP

Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| | 5,859,497 | 01/1999 | Anderson, et al. | 313 | 495 | |
| | 5,952,775 | 09/1999 | Sato, et al. | 313 | 422 | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------|-------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 2000-251796 | 09/2000 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| 9-179508 | 07/1997 | Japan | | | Abstract |
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OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.